incurred by companies operating Satellite TV channels in India, with break up of hire charges incurred by each company towards overseas satellite transmitters and whether each one of them obtained prior permission of RBI for the same; and

(b) if so, respective dates on which RBI gave such permission?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up a National Institute of Siddha/ Unani

2312. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up national institute for Siddha/Unani;

(b) if so, the present stage of the proposal; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It has been decided in principle to set up a National Institute of Siddha at Madras for which a tentative site has already been identified. However, due to lack of financial resources it is not possible to take further action on this during current financial year. In so far as National Institute of Unani is concerned, it has already been decided to set up the same at Bangalore on a piece of land provided by the Government of Karnataka free of cost. The foundation stone of the building had been laid on 8.11.1995 and the work of construction of boundary wall of the same is in progreee. The Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation Ltd. (HSCC), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has already been given the work to prepare designs and estimates for the proposed building complex of the Institute.

Composition of Company Law Board

2313. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the composition of the Company Law Board and the criteria and procedure for selection of its members and Chairman;

(b) how many offices the Board has all over the country;

(c) what is the category-wise break-up of the pending cases before the Board;

(d) what is the jurisdiction and powers of the Board;

(e) whether in the wake of economic liberalisation, need for a new role and giving more teeth to the Board has been felt by Government; and

(f) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The sanctioned strength of the Company Law Board is one Chairman, one Vice-Chairman and seven Members. Their qualifications, age limit and method of recruitment are prescribed in Rules 3 and 4 of the Company Law Board (Qualifications, Experience and other Conditions of Service of Members) Rules, 1993 issued vide Notification No. A-12018/3/ 92-Admn.I dated 28.4.1993 and published in the Official Gazette on 28.4.1993 under GSR No. 388 (E).

(b) The Board has a Principal Bench at New Delhi and four Regional Benches at New Delhi (Northern Region), Mumbai (Western Region), Calcutta (Eastern Region) and Madras (Southern Region).

(c) A statement is enclosed (*See* below)

(d) The Principal Bench of the Board has jurisdiction all over the country. The matters falling under Sections 235, 237, 247, 248, 250, 397/398, 408 and 409 of the Companies Act, 1956 and Section 2A of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 are dealt with by the Principal Bench. The Regional Benches have jurisdiction within their respective areas. The matters falling under Section 17, 18/19, 58A(9), 80A, 111, 113, 141, 167, 186 and 621A of the Companies Act, 1956 and under Section 22A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 are dealt with by the Regional Benches.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Category-wise break-up of the cases pending before the Company Law Board as on 1-8-1996.

	No. of cases
I. *Single Member Benches Cases relating to Companies Act under:*	
(i) Section 17	426
(ii) Section 18/19	4
(iii) Section 58 A (9)	1284
(iv) Section 80 A	16
(v) Section 113	69
(vi) Section 141	255
(vii) Misc. applications	255
(viii) Section 186	1
(ix) Section 621 A	140
(x) Section 167	6
II. *Double Member Benches*	
(i) Cases relating to Companies Act under Section 111	235
(ii) Cases under Section 22A of Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956	61
III. *Principal Bench*	
Cases relating to Companies Act under Sections 235, 237, 247, 248, 250, 397/398 and 408, 409 and Interlocutary applications.	302
	3054

Frauds in Banks

2314. DR. RANBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 271 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16th July, 1996 and state:

(a) the number of cases of frauds in Andhra Bank Ltd., Punjab National Bank and Allahabad Bank in the last three years—branch-wise and bank-wise;

(b) the amount involved in those frauds and the modus operandi adopted therein;

(c) the dates on which the frauds took place and the dates on which they came to light;

(d) whether the cases were reported to the police, if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the officers checked the genuineness of the signatures on the requisition slips/cheques before issuing cheque books/ passing/clearing the cheques;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the action taken against the concerned officers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Evasion of Excise Duty in connivance with Local Excise Officials

2315. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that inspite of simplification of excise rules, many traders are evading the same by adopting unfair trade practices in connivance with the local excise officials;

(b) whether Government are also aware that M/s Agra Leatherites and M/s Luggage Home, Mody No. 3, Sitabuldi, Nagpur (Maharashtra) are bulk manufacturers of covers of suitcases, and their turnover is above the exemption limit of Rs. 30 lacs under Central Excise Law, but even then, are not taken under the purview of excise net;

(c) whether any enquiry has been made in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Duties of excise are levied and collected from manufacturers only, on all excisable goods manufactured by them, and not on the trading activities.

(b) to (d) Detailed enquiries conducted in respect of M/s Agra Leatherites and M/s Luggage Home, Mody No. 3, Sitabuldi, Nagpur, have revealed that in addition to trading activity, both the companies are engaged in the stitching of covers of suitcases. While this